Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research to advise the Government on all aspects relating to Global Warming in the Indian, regional and global context, assist in the promotion and coordination of multi-institutional and multi-disciplinery studies in the area and to assess and monitor research projects in the relevant areas. The Committee consists of eminent scientists from various fields and senior Government officials.

Rivers Identified for clearance from Pollution

111. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the rivers in the country which have been identified for clearance from pollution during the last six months; and

(b) by when the work for clearing them will start?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) The polluted stretches of rivers that have been identified during the last six months for cleaning and restoration of water quality include. Sabarmati, Subarnarekha, Godavari, Krishna, Indus, Sutlej, Yamuna, Hindon, Chambal, Damodar, Gomti and Kali.

(b) Action for prevention and control of pollution has been initiated by the State Pollution Control Boards.

Cooperation of villagers around forests to development forests

'112. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to seek cooperation of villagers living around forests in order to develop forests, check illegal grazing of cattle by meeting their needs for fuel and grazing fields;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) Guidelines have been issued by the Central Government to State Governments for involvement of village communities and voluntary agencies for regeneration of degraded forest lands.

(b) and (c) Details of the guidelines are given in the statement.

Statement

Guidelines issued to State Governments for involvement of village communities and voluntary agencies for regeneration of degraded forest lands

(i) The programme should be implemented under an arrangement between the Voluntary Agency/NGO, the village community (beneficiaries) and the State Forest Department.

(ii) No ownership or lease rights over the forest land should be given to the beneficiaries or to the Voluntary Agency/NGO. Nor should the forest land be assigned in contravention of the provisions contained in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(iii) The beneficiaries should be entitled to a share in usufructs to the extent and subject to the conditions prescribed by the State Government in this behalf. The Voluntary Agency INGO. Nor should the entitled to usufructory benefits.

(iv) Access to forest land and usufructory benefits should be only to the beneficiaries who get organised into a village institution.

specifically for forest regeneration and protection. This could be the Panchayat or the Cooperative of the village, with no restriction on membership. It could also be a Village Forest Committee. In no case should any access or tree pattas be given to individuals.

(v) The beneficiaries should be given usufructs like grasses, lops and tops of branches, and minor forest produce. If they successfully protect the forests, they may be given a portion of the proceeds from the sale of trees when they mature. (The Government of West Bengal has issued orders to give 25 per cent of the sale proceeds to the Village Forest Protection Committees. Similar norms may be adopted by other States).

(vi) Areas to be selected for the programme should be free from the claims (including existing rights, privileges, concessions) of any person who is not a beneficiary under the scheme. Alternatively, for a given site the selection of beneficiaries should be done in such a way that any one who has a claim to any forest produce from the selected site is not left out without being given full opportunity of joining.

(vii) The selected site should be worked in accordance with a Working Scheme, duly approved by the State Government. Such scheme may remain in operation for a period of 10 years and revised/renewed after that. The Working Scheme should be prepared in consultation with the beneficiaries. Apart from protection of the site, the said Scheme may prescribe requisite operations, e.g. inducement to natural regeneration of existing root sock, seeding, gap filling, and wherever necessary intensive planting, soil-moisture conservation measures etc. The Working Scheme should also prescribe other operations e.g. fire-protection maintenance of boundaries, weeding, tending, cleaning, thinning etc.

(viii) For raising nurseries, preparing land for planting and protecting the trees after planting, the beneficiaries should be paid by the Forest Department from the funds under the social forestry programme. However, the village community may obtain funds from other Government agencies and sources for undertaking these activities.

(ix) It should be ensured that there is no grazing at all in the forest land protected by the village community. Permission is cut and carry grass free of cost should be given so that stall feeding is promoted.

(x) No agriculture should be permitted on the forest land.

(xi) Alongwith trees for fuel, fooder and timer, the village community may be permitted to plant such fruit trees as would fit in with the overall scheme of afforestation, such as aonla Imli, mango, mahua etc. as well as shrubs, legumes and grasses which would meet local needs, help soil and water conservation, and enrich the degraded soils/land. Even indigenous medicinal plants may be grown according to the requirement and preference of beneficiaries.

(xii) Cutting of trees should not be permitted before they are ripe for harvesting. The forest department also should not cut the trees on the forest land being protected by the village communities except in the manner prescribed in the Working Scheme. In case of emergency needs, the village communities should be taken into confidence.

(xiii) The benefit of people's participation should go to the village communities and not to commercial or other interests which

may try to derive benefit in their names. The selection of beneficiaries should therefore, be done from only those families which are willing to participate through their personal efforts.

(xiv) The Forest Department should closely supervise the wor.... If the beneficiaries and/or the Voluntary Agency/NGO fail or neglect to protect the area from grazing, encroachment or do not perform the operations prescribed in the Working Scheme in a satisfactory manner, the usufructory benefits should be wthdrawn without paying compensation to anyone for any work that might have been done prior to it. Suitable provisions in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for this purpose should be incorporated.

Smuggling of ivory from Karnataka

113. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated value of ivory smuggled from Karnataka;

(b) the steps taken to check its smuggling; and

(c) the number of elephants in the State at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) An overall estimate of the value of ivory illegally transported from Karnataka is not available. However the details of ivory siezed for unauthorised transport during the last four years is as under:—

Year	Number of Cases	Approximate value(Rupees)
1986-87	2	24,000
1987-88	1	12,100
1988-89	..	..
1989-90	2	68,500

(b) Steps taken by Government to curb the smuggling of ivory from Karnataka include:

(i) Coordination between the Chief Wildlife Wardens of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu by regular meetings and exchange of information on poaching of elephants and illegal trade in ivory.

(ii) Police cell has been created under Forest Department of Karnataka State for control of the poaching and smuggling of ivory.

(iii) the existing staff engaged in antipoaching activities has been strengthened for this purpose. Tribal trackers have also been engaged.

(iv) Improvement in the communication system through the provision of telephone and wireless network has been affected.

(v) Patrol Guards are being suitably armed.

(vi) A centrally sponsored scheme viz. "Control of Poaching and Illegal Trade in Wildlife" is being implemented.

(vii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1986, has imposed a total ban